



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 7080**
Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al. : Docket No. 2000_1663A
Serial No. 09/719,231 : Group Art Unit 2621
Filed February 22, 2001 : Examiner Duy M. Dang

IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE
DECODING APPARATUS, CHARACTER
COLLATION APPARATUS, AND DATA
STORAGE MEDIUM

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2004

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

In response to the species election requirement contained in item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Applicants hereby provisionally elect **Species 4** corresponding to the fourth embodiment described on page 86, line 18 to page 92, line 21 of the specification and in Figure 4, and respectfully traverse the species election requirement for the following reasons. Claims 1-3 and 8 read on the provisionally elected species.